

February 4, 2003

**AS AMENDED AND ADOPTED
BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ON FEBRUARY 4, 2003**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**FEDERAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 108TH CONGRESS
(3-VOTES)**

This letter recommends updated federal goals and policies for the first session of the 108th Congress. These goals and policies, together with other positions previously adopted by your Board, would guide our federal advocacy efforts this year. They have been developed in coordination with County Departments, the Legislative Strategist, and our Washington, D.C. advocates.

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the updated overall federal goals and policies for the year, which seek to maximize our federal revenues, secure greater flexibility over the use of federal funds, lessen the adverse impact of federal policies on County costs, and also approve funding priorities for individual appropriations bills identified in Attachment I and specific legislative policies presented in Attachment II.
2. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer, affected departments, the Legislative Strategist, and the County's Washington, D.C. advocates to work with our congressional delegation, other state and local governments, and interest groups to pursue the goals and policies in this Federal Agenda.

INTRODUCTION

Federal domestic policy initiatives and funding during this year's Congressional session may be overshadowed by the focus on Iraq, other potential international trouble-spots, and terrorism. Faced with a growing Federal budget deficit and a slowly growing economy, the Administration and the Republican-controlled Congress will likely propose freezing or cutting most domestic discretionary funding. Increases in homeland security programs are

likely to take priority over other domestic programs and may be financed by cutting other state and local grant programs to avoid further increasing the Federal deficit.

Nationwide, states are encountering their largest budget deficits in over 50 years, and the projected cumulative state deficits of \$60 billion to \$85 billion are twice the size of those experienced during the recession of the early 1990s. These deficits represent between 13 percent and 18 percent of total state expenditures nationwide. Many states are considering tax or fee increases, program cuts, and job layoffs. Because of these large state budget shortfalls, Congress also is likely to consider economic stimulus packages, which help to boost the national economy by providing temporary fiscal relief to states, such as one-time funding increases for Medicaid or increases in homeland security activities. State fiscal relief was considered last year, including a one-time \$9 billion Medicaid and Title XX Social Services funding increase, which was approved by the Senate on a bipartisan 75 to 24 vote.

Even with possible action on an economic stimulus bill, the Federal budgetary and political climate will place enormous pressure on efforts to maintain current levels of funding for many County priorities, such as the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), Workforce Investment Act programs, and transportation projects.

This year, Congress will re-visit a number of County priority issues that it failed to enact in 2002. It will again attempt to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which is implemented in California through the CalWORKs program. Because of the rapidly increasing budgetary stress that Medicaid is placing on state and local budgets, Congress will consider Medicaid financing issues, including a temporary increase in the Federal Medicaid match rate and restoring Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) funding to states, which took effect in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2003. Congress also may hold hearings on overall Medicaid program reform.

Securing additional funding for the County's health care system will continue to be a major focus of our Federal advocacy efforts. In addition, securing funds to mitigate the impact of State's budget deficit and to improve the County's emergency preparedness and response capabilities will be priorities. For this year's reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), our efforts will focus on increasing funding for transportation funds in California and the County.

OVERALL FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

Federal revenues account for over one-fifth of total County revenues and much of our State revenues are determined by federal policies which govern programs, such as Medicaid, CalWORKs, and foster care. County costs also are affected directly by Federal mandates and indirectly by Federal policies on immigration, the economy, health, and welfare. Under State law, the County is mandated to provide General Relief and medical

assistance to indigent residents who are ineligible for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, TANF, and other Federal public assistance programs.

In light of the State's budget deficit, maintaining or increasing Federal funding is even more critical. However, with increasing Federal deficits, it will be difficult to secure additional federal revenue to offset State and local losses. Federal Medicaid financing mechanisms, such as the Upper Payment Limit and caps on the DSH payments limit the amount of Federal Medicaid revenue that the County may receive. Funding for most other programs, including annual TANF allotments to states, are capped, and there is no requirement for the State to increase its contribution when caseloads or needs increase.

It also continues to be important that California receive a more equitable share of Federal resources. Since 1987, California has been a "donor" state by contributing far more in Federal taxes than it receives in federal spending. In 2000, Federal taxes collected in California exceeded Federal spending in the State by nearly \$30 billion. One contributing factor is that California receives the least amount of Federal Medicaid payments per recipient of any state. California also is likely to fare even worse relative to other states this year, in part because, under current law, the State's Federal Medicaid matching rate, which is tied to per capita income, dropped from 51.4 percent in FFY 2002 to 50 percent this year.

Accordingly, the County's Federal Agenda will focus on the following principles:

- Maximize federal revenues
- Secure greater flexibility over the use of federal funds
- Lessen any adverse impact of federal policies on County costs and decision-making authority

The County will pursue these principles in the context of a Federal budget climate where it continues to be difficult to preserve the base level of Federal revenue to the County, let alone increase revenues. Adoption of these overall legislative policies will allow the County's Washington, D.C. advocates to respond quickly to legislation and proposals that could significantly affect the County.

To achieve these overall principles, the County will pursue the following legislative positions:

1. Support proposals which would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to the County or California, and oppose proposals which would reduce the County's or State's share of total funding.

2. Support proposals which would provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds, and which provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations to large urban counties.
3. Oppose proposals which would impose new unfunded mandates on the County.
4. Give priority to increasing or preserving Federal funding for programs and activities that ensure equitable treatment of the County and/or California.
5. Oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County.
6. Support proposals to reduce or relax match requirements which hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.
7. Support Federal fiscal relief for financially distressed state and local governments.

SPECIFIC POLICIES ON FEDERAL ISSUES OF COUNTY INTEREST

County funding priorities for individual appropriations bills, which fund discretionary programs, are identified in Attachment I. Specific recommended legislative policies for federal authorization and reform legislation of County interest are identified in Attachment II. These policies cover major issues which may be addressed by Congress this year, such as Medicaid reforms, homeland security, employment and training, housing and community development, TEA-21 and TANF reauthorization.

The recommended policies also reaffirm many existing Board policies and are consistent with the County's overall federal goals stated above.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The proposed goals and policies in this Federal Agenda are consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals, specifically Organizational Effectiveness and Fiscal Responsibility. Adoption of the proposed Agenda will allow the CAO and the County's Washington, D.C. advocates to respond quickly to legislation and proposals that could significantly affect the County, such as potential new mandates and changes in program funding or local flexibility over the use of federal funds. In addition, adoption will allow pursuit of legislation, and/or support of proposals, related to specific program areas to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of County programs.

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CONCLUSION

The recommended policies contained in this letter and in Attachments I and II are submitted for your Board's consideration as the guiding principles for our advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. during the first session of the 108th Congress. The policies and goals contained in this package are in addition to, and are not intended to be exclusive of, other positions your Board may adopt. As in the past, the Federal Agenda will be updated to reflect any subsequent actions taken by your Board.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:GK
MT:ib

Attachments

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
All Departments
Legislative Strategist

COUNTY FUNDING PRIORITIES IN APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

This attachment outlines the County's funding priorities in individual appropriations bills which the County's Washington, D.C. advocates will pursue in the 108th Congress, consistent with existing Board policies. Within these priorities, the County will seek funding for its requirements consistent with political feasibility.

It should be noted that these priorities do not include health and welfare entitlement programs, such as Medicaid, for which funding levels are not determined through annual appropriations bills. Specific recommended Board policies relating to Medicaid and welfare are included in Attachment II.

1. Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Appropriations Bill

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP): Support increased funding for SCAAP to fully reimburse State and local costs of incarcerating criminal aliens.

Homeland Security Activities: Support increased funding for local homeland security activities, such as emergency preparedness and response, training, equipment, and improved communications systems.

County Anti-Crime Activities: Support increased funding for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, and increased resources to assist County justice agencies with technology improvements, prosecutions, prevention, corrections, crime laboratory/forensic science, training, and activities addressing special populations, such as juveniles, mentally ill, and homeless persons.

Immigration and Naturalization Activities: Support increased funding for activities such as border enforcement, INS agents assigned to the County's jails, automated fingerprint identification systems to track criminal aliens, prosecution of criminal aliens and alien smugglers, naturalization assistance, and processing of naturalization and immigration applications.

2. Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act Funding: Support increased funding of CARE Act programs.

Public Health Funding: Support increased funding for public health activities, including bioterrorism, early detection surveillance, immunizations, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, family planning, sexually transmitted disease, childhood lead poisoning, violence and injury prevention programs, food safety, and chronic disease programs.

Other Health Funding: Support full Federal reimbursement of the costs of emergency medical care provided to undocumented immigrants and funding for emergency preparedness and response, trauma care, and health care for the uninsured.

Mental Health: Support increased funding for mental health services and training, including the Mental Health Block Grant, the Children's Mental Health Services Program, and other mental health services for children and severely emotionally disturbed persons.

Social Services Block Grant: Support increased funding for this block grant, which provides states with considerable flexibility over the use of funds.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Programs: Support full funding of WIA programs, especially youth, adult, and dislocated worker programs.

Older Americans Act Programs: Support increased funding for Older Americans Act programs, especially nutrition services and the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

Refugee Assistance: Support increased funding to provide cash and medical assistance, employment services, social services, and other supportive services to refugees.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG): Support increased funding for CSBG, which provides assistance to states, localities, and community-based organizations to reduce poverty, revitalize low income communities, and assist low income persons.

3. Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill

Water Quality and Reliability: Support funding for the improvement of water quality and reliability and for the protection of water supplies against terrorist acts.

Marina del Rey: Support funding for the development and implementation of long-term solutions for shoaling problems, including the safe disposal of contaminated sediment and construction of improvements in Ballona Creek and at the entrance of Marina del Rey.

Beach Erosion/Replenishment: Support funding for the development and implementation of coastal management plans, including beach replenishment projects.

4. Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME, and Homeless Assistance: Support increased CDBG, HOME, and homeless assistance funding levels, and oppose efforts to increase set asides.

Public and Assisted Housing: Support increased funding for the public housing and Section 8 programs, including the Section 8 Welfare-to-Work Rental Housing Voucher program, and Shelter Plus Care renewal projects.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Support funding for FEMA to reimburse all unpaid disaster claims and for earthquake preparedness, disaster mitigation, anti-terrorism, emergency management, and firefighting grants.

5. Interior Appropriations Bill

Land and Water Conservation Fund: Support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as funding for improvements in the Santa Monica Mountains, parks, environmental restoration of coastal watersheds and wetlands, and beach projects in Los Angeles County.

Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) Program: Support increased funding for park and open space acquisition and development under the UPARR.

6. Transportation Appropriations Bill

Highway Projects: Support funding for projects to improve, repair, and maintain highways in Los Angeles County.

Airport and Seaport Security: Support increased funding to improve security at airports, seaports, and harbors in Los Angeles County, including funding for Coast Guard operations to protect coastal areas of the County.

Environmental Improvements: Support increased funding for initiatives to protect and enhance communities through projects that promote public safety and environmental improvement.

7. Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Bill

Voting Equipment: Support increased funding to help state and local governments upgrade their voting equipment by fully funding the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

RECOMMENDED FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

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**RECOMMENDED FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES
OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST**

1. Health/Mental Health

Support reform of Medicaid financing and provider payments to increase Medicaid payments, including disproportionate share hospital payments, to health safety net providers.

Support reform of Medicaid payments to providers to encourage efficient use of resources and expand ambulatory care services to low-income patients without jeopardizing total available Medicaid funds.

Support a more equitable allocation of Federal Medicaid funds to reduce the current disparity under which some states, such as California, receive far less Federal Medicaid funds per Medicaid recipient than other states.

Support proposals which would increase California's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), the Federal matching rate used under the Medicaid and Title IV-E Foster Care programs.

Oppose proposals which would increase the County's unreimbursed costs of providing and administering health care services, such as those which would reduce the level of Medicaid payments and the scope of Medicaid covered services and persons.

Support proposals which would expand Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and health insurance coverage to more persons, especially the uninsured and minors whose health needs, otherwise, must be met by the County.

Support proposals which provide states with greater flexibility over the use of SCHIP funds, including to expand eligibility to cover parents and legal immigrants, expand the scope of covered services, and use community-based delivery systems without requiring Federally approved waivers. Also, support proposals which would allow California to expend or retain more of its SCHIP allotments which, otherwise, would be subject to reallocation to other states under current law.

Support legislation to extend health insurance to more persons aged 55 to 64, such as by making Federal employee health benefit plans available to them.

Support proposals and funding to enhance the nation's public health infrastructure and the capacity of local public hospitals and health departments to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism and other medical and public health emergencies.

Support proposals which provide funding for trauma care services.

Support proposals which provide funding for capital improvements to public health facilities and clinics.

Support proposals which provide funding to promote and market the availability of County health services and which improve access to health care services for the uninsured, women, and other populations with special needs.

Support proposals which provide funding for urban telemedicine programs in medically underserved areas.

Support proposals which would expand or improve mental health and substance abuse coverage under public and private health insurance programs.

Support proposals which would allow Medicaid reimbursement for patients at institutions for mental disease (IMDs), which are hospitals, nursing facilities, or other institutions with more than 16 beds that are primarily engaged in the diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental diseases.

Support proposals which would increase Medicaid reimbursement of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) costs, including allowing Medicaid payments to be made to IHSS providers who are responsible relatives of recipients.

Support proposals which would expand Medicaid coverage to include the evaluation and diagnosis of learning disabilities.

Support proposals requiring prior notification to state and local governments by licensed health facilities granted protection under Federal bankruptcy laws to ensure maintenance of appropriate patient care.

Support proposals which allow public hospitals to access discounted pharmaceutical pricing schedules available to the Federal government.

Support proposals which would increase the supply of nurses, especially registered nurses.

2. Welfare Reform

Support proposals which would increase the number of indigent County residents who are eligible to receive Federally-funded assistance while ensuring that sponsors meet their financial obligations.

Support maintaining Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Title IV-E Foster Care as open-ended entitlement programs.

Support sufficient funding for welfare reform commensurate with any increase in services or administrative responsibilities needed to implement the reforms.

Support proposals and funding for welfare-to-work activities.

Support proposals and funding for services to non-custodial parents that strengthen their earning power, promote the payment of child support, and promote more effective parenting and greater involvement in the lives of their children.

Support funding to implement and make improvements to automated data and management information systems for Federal programs administered by state and local governments.

Support proposals which would simplify the administration of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, and Food Stamps.

Oppose proposals which would reduce funding for TANF, Medicaid, or Food Stamps.

Support proposals which would hold state and local governments harmless from fiscal penalties when the Federal government did not provide additional funding commensurate with the cost of meeting new Federal requirements or when the failure to meet Federal requirements resulted from factors beyond their control, such as the lack of clear program instructions.

Oppose proposals which would increase the County's unreimbursed costs of providing and administering health and human services, such as reducing Federal funding or denying Federally-funded benefits to indigent County residents who will remain eligible for County-funded services.

Support proposals which would enhance the County's ability to utilize Federal funds to coordinate and integrate service delivery, including, but not limited to, the sharing of costs and client information across Federal programs.

3. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Reauthorization

Support legislation to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant which maintains or increases annual funding levels and state and local flexibility over the use of funds, provides for an equitable allocation of funds to California, and preserves or increases the current state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) requirement to ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet the needs of low income children and their families.

Support preservation of the current scope of allowable activities and populations served. Support expanding the work activities that states may count towards the TANF work participation rate, and support the elimination of the separate two-parent work requirement.

Support proposals which provide incentives to states to move families toward self-sufficiency, such as providing credit toward a state's work participation rate for moving recipients into employment.

Support proposals which would waive fiscal penalties on states that failed to meet Federal work participation rate requirements despite increasing expenditures on work-related activities or which would allow a state to pay its penalty by increasing its TANF work-related expenditures by an amount equal to the penalty.

Support proposals which would increase the flexibility of states to draw down their TANF allotments.

Support proposals which would strengthen TANF's role in reducing child poverty.

4. Food Stamps

Support proposals which would simplify the administration of the Food Stamps Program, including telephone interviews with applicants, one-step benefit calculations, and streamlining of Food Stamps work and training requirements.

Support proposals which would reduce the County's Food Stamps error rate liability for Federal Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002.

Support proposals which improve coordination between the Food Stamps and TANF programs, including providing states with the option to use the TANF definition of household under the Food Stamps Program.

Support the restoration of Food Stamps eligibility to all legal noncitizens with deeming provisions for sponsored immigrants.

5. Children and Family Services

Support proposals which would provide a subsidy for legal guardian relative caregivers who have assumed full time care and responsibility for abused and neglected children and avoid foster care placement for such children.

Support proposals which promote income security, housing, health care, and education and vocational opportunities for youth emancipating from foster care. Support

proposals to lower the age provision of the Title IV-E Independent Living Program to 14 years.

Support proposals which separate eligibility for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program payments and eligibility for Title IV-E Foster Care, and reduce administrative costs.

Support proposals which would expand Title IV-E eligibility to more abused and neglected children.

Support proposals which would increase funding for foster care, adoption assistance, independent living, family preservation, child protective services, and other services to promote the safety and well being of abused and neglected children.

Support proposals and funding which would implement a Child Health and Education Passport System (CHEPS) in Los Angeles County.

Support proposals which would increase the number of adoptions of foster children, including through funding innovative demonstration projects to promote the adoption of older children and children with special needs.

Support proposals and funding which would improve and increase the training of child welfare, mental health, health, and other workers who provide services to children in the child welfare system.

Support proposals to expedite the implementation of a comprehensive statewide automated child support system in California, mitigate the State's fiscal liability for not meeting Federal child support automation requirements, and allow fiscal penalties imposed on the State to be reinvested in the child support program.

Support legislation that requires Federal agencies to update their records within five days of receipt of information from state Title IV -D child support agencies.

Support legislation to promote and increase domestic violence intervention, prevention, and education programs and child abuse and elder abuse prevention programs.

Support enactment of tax credits for individuals who provide in-home care to elderly parents or other family members.

Support proposals which provide funding for state and local governments for before and after-school programs.

Support proposals to provide states with increased financial incentives to pass through child support arrearages to children who receive welfare benefits.

Support proposals which provide funding for state and local government to increase access and availability of child care for working and low-income families, promote systems to monitor the quality of child care, and support the development and creation of child care facilities, including by allowing a portion of Child Care and Development Block Grant funds to be used to build child care facilities in areas with a shortage of licensed child care.

Support legislation to provide funding to local school districts to implement locally determined programs to help educate public school students with limited English proficiency.

Support legislation to reauthorize the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program, which maintains or increases California's percentage share of total CSBG funding, and which retains the current requirement that states pass through block grant funds to local communities.

6. Employment and Training

Support programs that provide special training, remedial education, job placement, career enhancement, and other employment services to low-income persons, at-risk youth, and displaced workers so that they may enter the competitive job market.

Support providing local elected officials greater control and flexibility over the administration, planning, and implementation of employment and training programs.

Support the pass-through of Federal employment and training funds to local areas based on relative need as measured by factors such as unemployment, poverty, and the number of welfare recipients and displaced workers.

Support legislation which allows persons from the military to obtain credit for their training, and promotes the transfer of such skills to the private sector and other government agencies to avoid the time and cost of retraining.

Support proposals which permit the full implementation of the County's Living Wage Ordinance.

7. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Reauthorization

Support legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which provides separate adult, youth, and dislocated worker formula grants for workforce development activities to states with the mandatory pass-through of funds to local workforce areas.

Support proposals to provide local elected officials with greater flexibility over the administration, planning, and use of WIA funds, including the flexibility to serve more in-school youth and foster youth and to administer stand-alone summer youth programs.

Support proposals which would expand and improve the effectiveness of the one-stop workforce delivery system, including providing greater flexibility in forming local partnerships and in sharing information and costs among programs and entities participating in the one-stop system.

Support reforms of the WIA performance measurement system, which would promote local flexibility in setting performance goals, and which would ensure that local areas are not penalized for having a high unemployment rate or for targeting services at hard-to-employ persons or persons with special needs, such as foster youth or the homeless.

Support proposals which would equitably allocate WIA funds to states and substate areas, based solely on relative need using the latest available data.

Oppose proposals that would include Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs in a “super waiver” covering multiple Federal employment and education programs, which could reduce the amount of funds available to the County for locally determined workforce services.

8. Homeland Security

Support funding for local homeland security activities, such as emergency preparedness and response, planning, training, equipment, and improved communications systems.

Support proposals and funding to enhance the nation’s public health infrastructure and the capacity of local public hospitals and health departments to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism and other medical and public health emergencies.

Support funding to improve the security of critical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, flood control, water resources, hospitals, public buildings, and transportation facilities.

Support funding to ensure an adequate supply of vaccine, antidotes, medications, and other medical supplies to respond to a health emergency or terrorist threat.

Support the direct allocation or the pass-through of an equitable share of state block grant funds to counties for first responder, bioterrorism, and other homeland security activities.

Oppose match or cost-sharing requirements which would hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.

Support proposals which would clarify that the Federal government, rather than state and local public health departments or their employees, is financially liable for any claims arising from the administration of the smallpox vaccine as part of their involvement in the Federal smallpox vaccination campaign.

Support proposals which would facilitate interagency information sharing and coordination on emergency management, law enforcement, public safety, and health matters relating to homeland security.

9. Justice/Anti-Crime

Support the allocation of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, juvenile justice, and other anti-crime block grant funds to local governments based on their relative need and responsibility for criminal justice activities, as measured by crime rates and criminal justice expenditures including, but not limited to, jails, courts, prosecution, incarceration, and probation.

Support direct grants (or the pass-through of an equitable share of state block grant funds) to counties for the development, refurbishment, or operation of correctional facilities.

Support the elimination or reduction of local match requirements under Crime Act programs, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services program, for financially distressed local governments.

Support proposals to allow the County to count its unreimbursed criminal alien incarceration costs as matching funds towards any match requirement for Federal anti-crime funds.

Support increased Federal resources to assist County justice agencies with crime laboratory improvements and backlog reduction, drug laundering intervention, jail automation, and tracking of criminal aliens.

Support increased funding for probation under Federal community policing programs, but not at the expense of currently financed law enforcement activities.

Support proposals which would facilitate information sharing and coordination between Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Support proposals to promote community prosecution programs and increase prosecutions of gun-related crimes and identity theft.

Support increased Federal involvement to combat criminal street gangs. Support increased Federal funding for juvenile justice programs which promote a balance of funding between punitive intervention efforts and prevention investments.

Support proposals that make mental health intervention a component of law enforcement and the administration of justice, including training law enforcement personnel in dealing with the mentally ill, and support funding for mental health courts.

Support legislation which expands Federal jurisdiction to prosecute hate crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, and disability.

Support legislation which seeks to reduce discrimination and hate crimes, increase human relations education and training, and enhance communities' capacity to effectively address intergroup relations issues.

Support proposals which allow for an intercept of Federal tax refunds of probationers who owe restitution.

Support legislation which would provide for the cancellation of student loans for public defenders and prosecutors.

10. Immigration and Refugees

Support proposals which would reduce the County's criminal justice costs associated with criminal aliens, such as by providing increased Federal reimbursement of County costs or by increasing Federal prosecutions of deported felons who unlawfully reenter the country.

Support proposals which would reduce INS backlogs of naturalization and immigration adjustment of status cases and which eliminate barriers faced by aged and disabled legal immigrants in becoming naturalized citizens.

Support an extension of Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which allows immigrants to adjust their immigration status without leaving the country if they pay a \$1,000 penalty fee, and support using the fee revenues to expand INS activities and reimburse criminal alien costs in the INS districts where the fees are collected.

Support legislation to reauthorize Refugee Act programs that ensure that newly arrived refugees will receive cash and medical assistance, employment and training, social services, and other needed services.

Support a more equitable allocation of Refugee Social Services and Targeted Assistance funds, and support proposals which provide local governments with greater

decision-making authority over the use of funds, including the flexibility to serve refugees who have been in the U.S. over five years.

Oppose proposals which would restrict the eligibility of refugees for other Federal programs, such as TANF and Medicaid, or which would shift costs of providing cash and medical assistance to refugees from the Federal government to state and local governments.

11. Community Development

Support programs and initiatives providing community development, economic development, and housing for low and moderate income persons to improve their living conditions and the economic health and infrastructure of their communities.

Support proposals which provide increased flexibility over the use of Federal community development and housing funds to local officials.

Support retention of the current direct allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to large urban counties and current CDBG and HOME state/local allocation formulas, and oppose proposals that would decrease funding to Los Angeles County.

Support permanent extension of the CDBG public service cap from 15 percent to 25 percent for Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles.

Oppose policies which would allow private commercial development and the transfer of land to private entities at the Veterans Administration West Los Angeles Healthcare Center.

Support proposals which increase resources to clean up and redevelop Brownfields.

12. Housing and Homeless Assistance

Support proposals to maintain or increase funding to public housing authorities (PHAs), such as for capital improvements, operating subsidies, resident services, administration, and crime prevention programs in public housing.

Support proposals which would provide local officials with greater flexibility over the administration and use of housing funds, including greater flexibility over the use of Section 8 vouchers and the membership of the governing body of the PHA.

Support proposals that revise Fair Market Rent levels and increase the utilization rate of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, particularly in high cost, low vacancy rental markets.

Support proposals which would simplify program administration and ease reporting requirements for public housing authorities.

Support proposals and funding which would increase home ownership opportunities for low and moderate income families and increase the supply of affordable housing.

Support proposals which provide additional resources for meeting the housing and related supportive service needs of special populations, including the elderly and disabled who often require assisted living arrangements and the mentally ill.

Support the reauthorization of the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and proposals which would increase local discretion over the use of homeless assistance funds, increase funding for homeless assistance programs, including supportive housing, supportive services, emergency services, and the Homeless Management Information System, and more equitably distribute funds based on relative need.

Support creation and funding of a national plan to end homelessness and which also addresses the needs of the homeless mentally ill.

Support proposals that would impede predatory lending practices.

13. Transportation

Support funding for County transportation projects.

Support proposals to provide local officials with greater flexibility over the use of transportation funds.

Support regional alternatives to the expansion of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), including the use of tax and fee incentives for airlines to expand the number of flights at underutilized regional airports.

Support legislation to reauthorize the Airport Improvement Program (AIR-21) with provisions which would promote regional alternatives to LAX expansion and which would enhance the role of state and local officials over airport planning and development.

Support funding for clean fuel busses and for bus maintenance facility improvements.

Support efforts to work collaboratively with regional transportation agencies to secure funding for transportation projects in Los Angeles County.

Support proposals which expand the proposed Federal Highway Administration rule on “design-build” to cover transit projects and bus facilities.

14. Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21) Reauthorization

Support legislation to reauthorize the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) which maintains or increases overall annual funding, provides for a more equitable allocation of funds to California and the County, funds demonstration projects in the County, and enhances the role of local officials over the planning and use of TEA-21 funds.

Support proposals which would increase the share of Federal transportation funds received by California relative to Federal taxes collected from California.

Support proposals to increase funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, which funds transportation projects that lower emissions to assist states in meeting Federal air quality standards, targets a greater share of CMAQ funds to urban areas with the worst air quality, and increases local flexibility over the use of CMAQ funds in improving air quality.

Support proposals which would increase state and local control over the use of funds by increasing the share of total funding allocated, by formula, to states rather than through Congressionally earmarked projects.

Support proposals to streamline and expedite the transportation planning and development process.

15. Air, Water, and Resources

Support measures which permit greater local flexibility in dealing with potential contamination and pollution from storm water runoff, and oppose changes in Federal law and policy which restrict the ability of the County to maintain facilities so they can function as designed.

Support proposals and funding for research and development of technologies to improve water quality with respect to brackish water, chromium 6, perchlorate, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), arsenic, radon, and disinfection byproducts.

Support proposals which would improve the reliability, quality, and security of water supplies for Los Angeles County.

Support amendments to the Clean Water Act which exempt from its provisions those routine operation and maintenance activities on existing publicly-owned flood control and water conservation facilities.

Support legislation which repeals the mandated use of oxygenated fuel additives, such as MTBE.

Support proposals which provide funding to states and local governments for conversion of vehicle fleets to alternative fuels to improve air quality.

Support proposals which provide funding to state and local governments for environmental protection and restoration of watersheds, shorelines, and wetlands, land acquisition, open space, and improvements to parks, beaches, and other recreational areas.

Support proposals and funding for pollution control activities.

Oppose proposals which would reduce the amount of funds available to state and local governments from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Support proposals to fully fund the Los Angeles County segment of the Army Corps of Engineers' Coast of California study and the development of long-term management plans for sediments in the Los Angeles region.

Support the use of a portion of funds from the Outer Continental Shelf Royalty Fund for sand replenishment, sewage treatment, urban runoff programs, and the environmental protection and restoration of watersheds, shorelines, and wetlands, and oppose initiatives to renew offshore drilling.

Support proposals which would authorize Federal cost-sharing of local development and rehabilitation projects as well as operations and maintenance at Federally owned and constructed flood control facilities used for regional recreation.

Support funding for pest prevention and eradication efforts, weed and wildlife management efforts, enhanced pesticide use enforcement and monitoring, increased surveillance of pests at ports of entry in California, and for the Sterile Insect Release program in the Los Angeles area to prevent Medfly infestations.

Support funding for weights and measures inspection and enforcement.

16. Waste Management and Superfund

Support measures which protect local governments from excessive and unjustified liability for hazardous waste cleanup.

Support proposals and funding for the immediate clean up of hazardous materials at closed military bases to ensure the prompt reuse of those bases for new purposes.

Support proposals which establish a redemption value on paint cans to promote recycling of leftover paint.

Support development of long-term markets for recycled materials and other end-use products.

Support proposals which would increase the recycling of televisions and computer monitors that are toxic due to their lead content, such as requiring manufacturers, retailers, and end users to share the financial burden of recycling them.

Support the development of alternative technologies, other than landfilling, for the management of residual waste after diversion activities.

Oppose proposals which would allow transport of nuclear waste through the County.

17. Disaster Assistance

Support proposals which would increase the amount of Federal disaster aid available to the County, such as by authorizing Federal reimbursement of straight-time labor costs for emergency response work, and oppose proposals that would reduce Federal disaster aid or increase the proportion of disaster aid or hazard mitigation costs which must be borne by state or local governments.

Support proposals and funding to improve the capacity of state and local governments to plan, prepare, and respond to emergencies, including those involving acts of terrorism as well as natural disasters.

18. Utilities

Support efforts to ensure reasonable wholesale rates for electricity, and oppose proposals which would restrict California's efforts to solve its energy problems.

Support proposals to require refunds to consumers and utilities for rates charged in excess of just and reasonable levels.

Support efforts to establish electric utility reliability standards.

Oppose proposals which would restrict the ability of public agencies to use tax-exempt financing for electric co-generation.

19. Communications

Support proposals and funding that would enable County public safety agencies to upgrade their communications systems, including to make use of additional radio

spectrum, implement or expand interoperable communications systems, use new communications technologies, and meet increasingly complex communications requirements.

Support proposals to provide local agencies with waivers from Federal mandates to convert from broadband to narrow band communications technologies or with funding to comply with the mandates.

Support proposals which would assign additional radio spectrum to public safety agencies.

Oppose measures which preempt local government authority over zoning of television, radio, and telecommunications broadcast towers.

Support proposals which encourage competition between local telephone companies and long distance carriers, in order to reduce costs to consumers.

Support Federal legislation which prohibits “slamming” and “cramming” of telecommunications service, and limits the financial liability of affected consumers. Support proposals which protect consumers from unsolicited commercial electronic mail (“spamming”).

Oppose measures which preempt the authority of local government to adopt policies on use of Internet services and equipment funded by the Federal E-rate telecommunication discount program.

Support legislation to provide consumers with a callback number that would lift the identity block used by marketers in telephone solicitations.

Support proposals to provide all public libraries with lower rates for telecommunications services, including for access to the Internet.

20. Tobacco Settlement

Support proposals which reimburse local governments for indigent and employee health care costs attributable to tobacco products, reduce youth access to tobacco products, and promote community-based tobacco prevention and intervention efforts.

Oppose proposals which weaken the ability of local government to sue the tobacco industry, preempt the ability of local government to regulate tobacco products, and weaken the ability of the Federal Food and Drug Administration to regulate nicotine, unless part of an overall settlement which is beneficial to the County.

Support proposals which prevent the Federal government from taking proceeds from settlements between the tobacco industry and state and local governments.

Oppose proposals which limit the ability of individuals to sue the tobacco industry for tobacco-related damages.

21. Census and Federal Data

Support proposals which promote accurate, unbiased and inclusive census counts, and support the use of scientifically sound sampling methods to augment the direct count to ensure that accurate data will be available with which to equitably allocate funds among states and localities.

Support the use of the most current available Federal demographic data in allocating Federal formula grant funds to assure that areas, such as the County, whose population is growing faster than the national average, receive an equitable share of funds.

Oppose the use of small state minimums which provide states with small populations with more Federal aid relative to need than more populous states, such as California.

22. Federalism

Support proposals which ensure the input of state and local governments before implementing any Executive Order relating to the powers of state and local governments.

Oppose proposals which preempt local land use decision-making, exempt certain categories of land use from zoning requirements, or limit the ability of local governments to determine appropriate uses of property within their jurisdiction.

Support proposals which would expedite Federal review of waiver requests submitted by state and local governments, especially requests for waiver extensions or waivers similar to those approved in other jurisdictions.

Oppose proposals which would result in a net cost increase or tax revenue loss to state and local governments without providing them with offsetting Federal revenue.

Oppose proposals which would result in the downsizing and/or closure of the Los Angeles Air Force base.

23. Retirement/Pension Programs

Oppose proposals which mandate Social Security and Medicare coverage of state and local government employees.

Support proposals which would increase the portability of government pension and deferred income plans and relax limits on contributions to and benefits from such plans.

24. Voting

Support legislation which permits registrars to remove names from voting rolls when unable to confirm residency, permits the use of Social Security numbers on voter registration affidavits, establishes a system for local elections officials to ascertain and determine the status of Federal felons on probation or parole, and permits the U.S. Postal Service to return undeliverable official elections materials without charge to elections officials.

Support proposals and funding to help state and local governments upgrade their voting equipment to a more technologically advanced system that produces accurate and expeditious election results without imposing uniform nationwide standards.

25. Cultural/Libraries

Support increased Federal funding for museums and other cultural institutions that promote and sustain the arts, the humanities, and the sciences.

Support reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act with increased authorization levels needed to enhance local library services.

Support funding for the Federal Depository Library Program, which makes government publications accessible to the public at public libraries throughout the country.

26. Consumer Affairs

Support legislation to prohibit unsolicited credit checks currently being marketed by credit card companies.

Support proposals to reduce or relax match requirements which would hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds.